



# NEWSLETTER

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY**



## SD BRIDGE TO BE DEDICATED IN HONOR OF LCPL FLYING HORSE

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting a State Bridge Dedication Ceremony to honor Combat Veteran LCPL Conrad Lee Flying Horse.

The ceremony will be held Saturday, May 15, 2021, at 10:00 am (MT) at the McIntosh School football field (one mile east of McIntosh on HWY 12 and 65 Junction).

The HWY 12 bridge one mile east of McIntosh will be dedicated to LCPL Flying Horse, of McIntosh, who died in combat on August 27, 1970, after suffering wounds received when an explosive went off. Flying Horse was serving in the Marine Corps in South Vietnam, Quang Nam province.

Naming bridges in honor of our combat veterans who died while serving their country is an initiative of Governor Kristi Noem and the South Dakota Departments of Military, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs.

"Whenever and wherever this nation has called, in times of darkness and danger, as well as in times of peace and prosperity, veterans have been there and have proudly carried the torch of liberty for all to see," said Greg Whitlock, secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

"Our fallen heroes are no longer with us, but their memories live on in the hearts of their loved ones and our state," said Whitlock. "Naming our South Dakota bridges in honor of our fallen will give us an opportunity to remember and respect the men and women who gave their lives in service to this nation."



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# MESSAGE FROM SDDVA SECRETARY WHITLOCK

It's hard to believe that 20 months ago we broke ground for South Dakota's first state veteran's cemetery. The day was cold and wet, but the hearts of those in attendance were warm and full of pride knowing that we were soon going to provide and maintain a dignified final-resting place to honor all eligible veterans and dependents.

The City of Sioux Falls gifted over 60 acres of land for the cemetery. The funding received for Phase 1, from the National Cemetery Administration and the State of South Dakota, allowed for us to construct the main entrance, maintenance building, administration building, scattering garden, committal service shelter, Avenue of Flags, a memorial wall, 610 pre-placed crypts, 999 in-ground cremains sites, and 660 columbarium niches, all in a beautifully landscaped setting in accordance with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs standards.

The cemetery will be expanded as needed and will eventually be capable of providing a final resting place for more than 28,000 veterans and family members.

Our major partners during the construction phase included: the National Cemetery Administration, Stockwell Engineers, Inc., the LA Group, Koch Hazard, Heyer Engineering, Journey Construction, State Engineers Office; as well as numerous subcontractors. We are thankful for all who shared their expertise, commitment, and dedication to this great project.

The staff of the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery is dedicated to providing an honorable place of rest for our veterans; to preserve the dignity, beauty, and serenity of this state-of-the-art facility; and to honor all who sacrificed so much, making possible the freedoms we enjoy today.

The South Dakota Veterans Cemetery conveys peace through natural beauty and is a source of pride to veterans, families, and all of South Dakota. The sacrifices our veterans laid upon the altar of freedom will never be forgotten.

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs will hold the first Memorial Day ceremonial program and a dedication/ribbon cutting ceremony at the State Veterans Cemetery on Monday, May 31, at 2:00 pm (CT). Watch for more detailed information on logistics to be announced in the coming month.

Our greatest duty to the men and women who served this great country is to never, ever forget what they have done for each of us and what they have done for us as a nation.





## Addressing food insecurity needs for veterans, service members, and their families, and their caregivers

### OPERATION CHOW LINE

Meal is free for service members, veterans, their families and caregivers

#### Yankton, SD

Pancake Feed and Resource Fair  
Thursday May 20, 2021 from 10am-2pm  
VFW Parking Lot

#### Huron, SD

Pancake Feed and Resource Fair  
Wednesday June 9, 2021 from 10am-2pm  
S.D. National Guard Armory

For more information contact: Jill Baker, CAV Chair  
605-370-9898

Paul Miller, CAV Vice-Chair  
Volunteers of America  
605-941-7960

Pat Herman, CAV Treasurer  
Center for Disabilities  
605-357-1577

All veteran service organizations, auxiliaries, and local partners in the area are welcome to set up a resource booth.



We are proud to be a BWF local Partner. Our thanks to the Bob Woodruff Foundation and Craig Newmark Philanthropies for this funding to help us combat food insecurity among service members, veterans, their families and their caregivers.

Our special thanks to the DAV Arthur H. Muchow Chapter No. 1 for providing funding to help us combat food insecurity among South Dakota's service members, veterans, their families, and their caregivers.





# MILITARY POLICE COMPANY TRAINS FOR STATE/FEDERAL MISSIONS

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 235th Military Police Company conducted a field training exercise April 10 at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City to prepare for its state and federal missions. The primary mission of the 235th is detainee operations, but is also capable of conducting internal and external security operations for facilities. The field training exercise, or FTX, prepares soldiers by rehearsing tactics, techniques, procedures, coordination, and team building.

"This is a great experience to get outside and get back to the basics of soldiering," said Capt. Pat Moran, commander of the 235th. "There's a little bit of chaos so they can think on their feet and so the junior enlisted are looking to their leaders for advice in an uncomfortable situation."

Soldiers rehearsed combat patrols, enemy prisoner of war operations and detainee operations and transports.

"The training we've done is a culminating event to take some of our mission essential tasks we have to do as an MP company and put them all into one big exercise," said Sgt. Derek Malone, a squad leader for the 235th. "This way we're able to train on multiple aspects of a mission that we will eventually be assigned and enable us to fine-tune our skills."

The 235th has deployed three times since the formation of the unit in 1999, and has recently converted from a law enforcement company to a military police detention company.

"The thing I'm looking forward to most is growing in my squad leader role and being able to be a good leader to the soldiers I'll have under me," said Malone. "To get hands-on and have that first-line level of leadership with your soldiers is a great experience to get."



There are two detachments for the 235th, one in Rapid City and the other in Sioux Falls, and they come together for training only a couple times a year. This FTX was the first time they've trained together since Moran took command in October.

While the FTX provided all members of the unit the opportunity to rehearse and train on mission essential tasks, the main priority was to hone leadership skills by placing soldiers in uncomfortable situations so they learn from their experiences.



# HEROES HELPING HEROES!

The VFW Veterans and Family Support Chairwoman Geraldine Warner and past VFW Auxiliary State Chairwoman Mary Hammond presented 14 catheter covers and six newly crafted quilts to the team at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home. Special thanks to Alice Mentele from Mitchell for her support with the catheter covers. We truly appreciate the VFW Auxiliary for their continued support of our veterans and the State Veterans Home! Heroes helping heroes!



# SFVAHCS REINSTATES VALET SERVICES

Great News! The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System has reinstated their valet services for veterans effective April 1.

The valet service operates 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – through Friday.



# VHA OBSERVES 75 YEARS, ONE BILLION HOURS OF VOLUNTEERISM

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA) celebrates its 75-year milestone anniversary during National Volunteer Week, April 18–24.

In 1946, the VA established the Department of Medicine and Surgery (DM&S), the organization that would later become the Veterans Health Administration and provide health care to veterans as a core mission.

[VA Voluntary Service](#) (VAVS) was one of the foundational programs created in the newly established DM&S which is marking 1 billion hours volunteers have given of their time in service to Veterans at VA facilities.

“Volunteers are a priceless asset and our Veterans greatly appreciate what they do and have done for three quarters of a century,” said Center for Development and Civic Engagement Director Sabrina Clark. “VA volunteerism is a tradition that has created opportunities for volunteers to serve Veterans, even during a global pandemic.”

At the beginning of VHA's COVID-19 response, VAVS adapted its program to meet the needs of Veterans. Although in-person volunteer engagements were limited, VAVS designed new virtual assignments and galvanized volunteers and organizations to donate items, such as handmade masks, personal protective equipment, smart tablets for Veterans to stay in touch with loved ones, and even meals for frontline workers.

Where many believed volunteer operations to be suspended, VAVS continued its mission to involve the American public in civic engagement activities on behalf of the nation's Veterans. They saw approximately 46,000 volunteers on the rolls during 2020, contributing more than 4.4 million hours of service, and \$108 million in gifts and donations; resulting in a value-added resource of approximately \$227 million to VA, Veterans, families and caregivers.

To learn more about available volunteer opportunities and join the mission to honor the sacrifice and service of America's Veterans, contact [VA Voluntary Service](#).







Last week,  
Team SDDVA  
Purpled Up  
In Support of  
Military Children.  
They served too!



# UPCOMING EVENTS

May 15—LCPL Conrad Flying Horse Bridge Dedication—McIntosh High School Football Field—10:00 am (MT)  
 May 31—State Veterans Cemetery Memorial Day Program and Ribbon Cutting—2:00 pm (CT)  
 Jun 1—PVT David Crow and PVT Dale Crow Bridge Dedication—Bison High School—2:00 pm (MT)  
 Jun 13—Midwest Honor Flight Honor Ride—Begins at Military Heritage Alliance—Sioux Falls (1600 W. Russell Street)—Registration 12:30 pm (CT) and ride begins at 2:30 pm (CT)  
 Jun 17-20—VFW 91st State Convention—Kelly Inn (1607 E. HWY 50)—Yankton  
 June 24-27—American Legion State Convention—Crossroads (100 4th ST SW)—Huron  
 Jul 21—South Dakota Veterans Council Meeting—Military Heritage Alliance Building—Sioux Falls—9:00 am (CT)  
 Aug 16-18—SDDVA Annual Benefits School—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre  
 Aug 23—Midwest Honor Flight Fundraiser at Barrel House—Sioux Falls (4701 E. 54th Street)  
 Oct 23—Midwest Honor Flight Hangar Dance at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance—Sioux Falls (1600 W. Russell Street)



**HONOR RIDE**  
MIDWEST HONOR FLIGHT

*"RIDING TO KEEP THEM FLYING"*

**Sunday, June 13, 2021 | 2:30 PM**

Registration begins at 12:30 PM at the South Dakota Military Heritage Alliance. Honor a Veteran you know and ride to raise funds for Midwest Honor Flight. Ride includes a slow salute past the Sioux Falls VA Hospital before an escort to the new South Dakota State Cemetery.

**MORE INFORMATION & PRE-REGISTRATION:**  
**MIDWESTHONORFLIGHT.ORG/RIDE**

Midwest Honor Flight is a 100% volunteer organization. All proceeds from this event go directly towards future Honor Flight and more importantly, our local Veterans.

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